

Data from State sites like Cowpens and Congaree are used by the NPS to document ozone concentrations and resource exposure levels on sensitive park resources. The State's primary mission in monitoring for ozone is to protect public health (primary ozone standard) whereas the NPS mission falls into the protection of public welfare (secondary ozone standard). I believe SC uses Cowpens and Congaree as background sites and suspect they are restructuring their network with fewer background stations and more stations in the population centers.

In the past the NPS has used the COWP data in assessing and reporting ozone concentration and exposure levels service-wide in maps, reports, etc. and CUPN hoped to use the continuous ozone data in the ozone injury assessments for the network. Another factor to consider is discussions are under way nationally to lower the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone from the current 8-hour 0.08 ppm limit to maybe 0.70 ppm. EPA has not made a decision on this yet but if the standard is lowered then previous concentration measured in the park are well within this range. The EPA is also considering a new secondary standard (public welfare) for ozone that uses the statistic SUM06. The SUM06 statistic sums all hours with ozone over 0.06 ppm, when a certain accumulated amount of ozone is summed then ozone injury may be expected to occur. The ozone injury protocol plans to use the SUM06 statistic as a planning tool to initiate ozone injury surveys on network sensitive park resources and the COWP monitor would be used to calculate SUM06 for your park.

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